## III.    REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this application.  By this Amendment, claims 10-12 have been cancelled.  Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed.  Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.  Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal.  Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-3 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kikinis (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,259), hereafter "Kikinis," in view of Markus et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,601), hereinafter "Markus"; and claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kikinis and Markus, and further in view of Bhatia et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0154162), hereafter "Bhatia."

Applicants file a Notice of Appeal regarding the final rejections identified above.  By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 10-12 to reduce issues on appeal.  Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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